

Grace Lutheran in Royersford

2019

PSALM 103:12

FORGIVEN

AS FAR AS THE **EAST** IS FROM THE **WEST**

Psalm 103:12

12 And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins.

The Message Bible

Forgiveness

Lenten Devotional Booklet

**A special thank you to the 40 members of Grace Lutheran Church,
Royersford who took their time to reflect and write a devotion for the
Lenten Devotional Booklet 2019 Forgiven .
Thank you for sharing your faith! ...Sue**

Lenten Devotions 2019 Forgiveness

Forgiveness and Wholeness

March 6 (Ash Wednesday) Jeremiah 31:31-34 (God does not remember sins)
March 7 Matthew 9:1-8 (forgiveness as healing)
March 8 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (God's reconciliation and forgiveness)
March 9 Ephesians 1:3-9 (forgiveness of sins)
March 10 Sunday's gospel: Luke 7:44-50 (forgiveness of woman who anoints Jesus)
March 11 James 5:13-16 (healing in forgiveness)
March 12 Genesis 1:26-31 (made in image of God, relational)
March 13 John 1:24-34 (Jesus takes away sins of world)
March 14 Proverbs 17:9 (forgiveness as love)
March 15 Psalm 130 (plea for forgiveness)
March 16 Isaiah 53:4-6 (forgiveness/healing through God's servant/Christ)

Understanding Forgiveness

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March 18 Joel 2:12-13 (need for repentance)
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March 20 John 8:1-11 (all need forgiveness)
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March 22 Psalm 86:1-7, 15 (David's trust in a forgiving God)
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Telling the Story & Naming the Hurt

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March 30 Jeremiah 8:18-22 (acknowledgment of pain of betrayal)

Granting Forgiveness & Renewing/Releasing the Relationship

March 31 Sunday's Gospel: Luke 10:1-11 (shake dust from feet)
April 1 Ephesians 4:31-32 (forgive as you've been forgiven)
April 2 Malachi 3:6-7 (God's unending love and desire for repentance)
April 3 Genesis 33:1-11 (Esau forgives Jacob)
April 4 Colossians 3:12-17 (forgive one another)
April 5 Psalm 32:1-7 (blessedness in forgiveness)
April 6 Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus makes restitution for sins)

All Can Be Forgiven

April 7 Sunday's Gospel: Luke 23:32-43 (Jesus forgives from cross)
April 8 1 John 1:8-9 (confession of sins)
April 9 Hosea 2:16-20 (God's forgiveness of unfaithfulness)
April 10 John 18:15-27, John 21:15-17 (Jesus forgives Peter's denials)
April 11 Mark 2:1-12 (forgiveness before repentance)
April 12 Psalm 51:1-12 (David's repentance)
April 13 Matthew 5:43-48 (forgive your enemy)

Holy Week

April 14 Palm Sunday's Gospel: Hebrews 10:10-18 (forgiveness of all sins)
April 15 Luke 15:11-32 (radical nature of forgiveness)
April 16 Psalm 85 (God's forgiveness)
April 17 Micah 7:18-20 (God's faithfulness)
April 18 (Maundy Thursday) Matthew 26:26-29 (forgiveness through Christ)
April 19 (Good Friday) Romans 3:21-26 (all have sinned, forgiveness is a gift)
April 20 Ephesians 2:1-9 (sin brings death, Christ gives life)

Forgiveness and Wholeness



March 6 (Ash Wednesday)

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (God does not remember sins)

In these verses, the prophet Jeremiah speaks to a people in exile, a people God called to have a special relationship with him, and a people who broke that relationship time after time. God guided his people through signs, miracles, laws written on stone and on papyrus, and through his servants such as Moses and David. But being human, his people strayed again and again. The lesson Jeremiah provides is that despite this, God forgives and seeks a variety of ways to renew and revitalize the special relationship he has with his people. He will always forgive, no matter how far we've strayed, and in the end, he will forgo earthly tools such as tablets and connect directly with his people's hearts. As Lutherans, we have a special connection with this message of having a direct, personal connection with God, and receiving grace through faith, with nothing asked in return. This is central to our beliefs. This is all God's doing, and through Jesus Christ we are called into a relationship with him and each other.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the grace you give, asking only for our faith in your promise to gather us together as your people and bless us, so we can be a blessing to others. Thank you also for forgiving us no matter how many times we've strayed, and for finding a variety of ways to bring us back to you, renewing and revitalizing the special relationship we have with you.

Jack

March 7 Thursday

Matthew 9:1-8 (forgiveness as healing)

Some of the people gathered saw Jesus as a fake because he was not God. They felt no one other than God could heal or forgive anyone's sins. The paralyzed man's friends were of a humble faith and knew Jesus Christ could help him. Those who yelled blasphemy at his workings truly did not know Jesus's true purpose was to save us from our sins – eventually dying for us.

These verses show that sin is the ultimate cause of spiritual paralysis. No worse infection or illness can confine us. It will control all aspects of our life and maybe even eternity to come, unless we are redeemed from it. This passage continues the theme of how Jesus repeatedly goes out of his way to forgive us as sinners. He seeks out we who are unworthy and then He forgives and heals us. Why does Jesus do this for us? He did it because he loves us and wants us to be better people. We have no way to get off our "mat" without his help. We may not be confined to a bed or in a wheelchair, but often we are still paralyzed by sin, and in constant need of his forgiveness.

PRAYER:

Lord,

It is your greatest intention to separate our hearts from sin. You have the perfect knowledge of all that we say within ourselves. There is evil in sinful thoughts and we know that it is offensive to you. Help us to be better and more accepting of all of those around us. Help us to get off our "mats" and let our actions and words serve to honor you always.

Amen

David and Debbie

March 8 Friday

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (God's reconciliation and forgiveness)

It was through Christ's death and resurrection that God accomplished the reconciliation of the world to himself. Reconciliation is the restoration of a relationship of peace. If we are reconciled with God, we view everything from the perspective of God. We no longer look at people as we did before, we don't judge or condemn. If we follow Christ, we are expected to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation. Our actions should be seen as sharing the love and forgiveness that reflect what we have received from God.

Sin breaks our relationship with God. It destroys family members, separates friends, divides churches and nations. As ambassadors of Christ, we need to relate the message of reconciliation to each other and the world. We need to forgive and restore peace.

Prayer:

***God of peace, help me to view others through your lens, to create peace, and to forgive those whom I have offended. In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.***

Judy

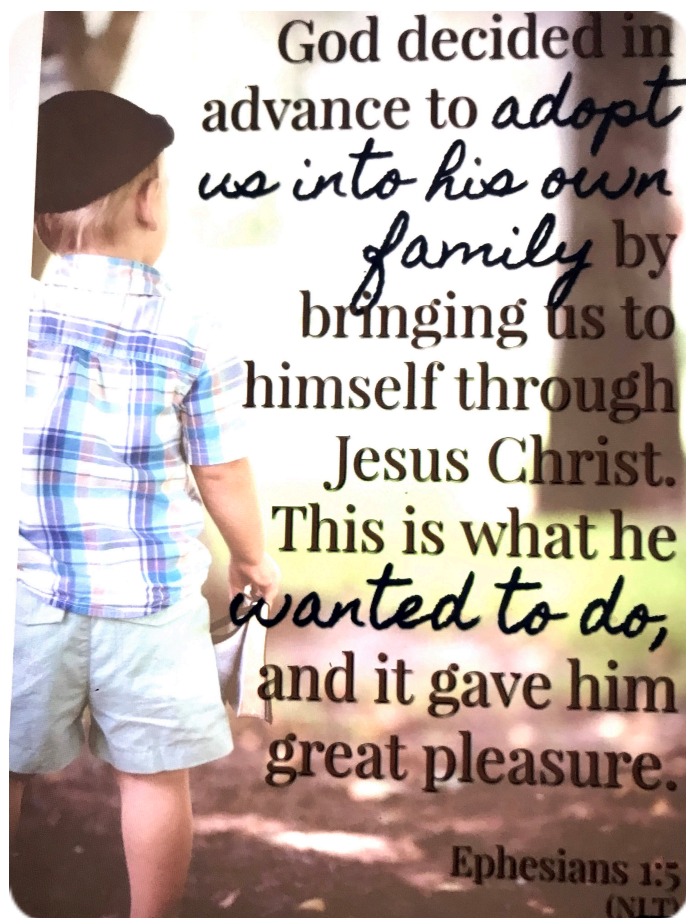
March 9 Saturday

Ephesians 1:3-9 (forgiveness of sins)

In researching this passage of the Bible, I found myself struggling for a good way to verbalize the very major point that Paul was making in his letter to the Ephesians. God had planned well in advance to send his son, Jesus Christ, to die for us. God did not decide who would believe and who would disobey - but he DID determine that those who believe would be saved. The grace of God is freely given to us and our sins are forgiven. How could we not take advantage of such a gift?

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for sending your son Jesus to us. Help us to forgive each other and live our lives as a reflection of your love towards us. Amen

Anne



March 11 Monday

James 5:13-16 (healing in forgiveness)

When we pray for forgiveness and healing we are asking that the Lord will forgive all our sins and restore us to wholeness. That could mean that the Lord may heal our physical bodies but more importantly, He will bestow spiritual wellness/wholeness to each of us. As members of Grace we should pray and ask the Holy Spirit to be present with each other in both good and difficult times. Give Praise to the Lord for His goodness and His healing. God Is Good, All the Time.

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

***Please walk closely with each of our congregation members during this season of Lent. Forgive their sins and Restore Spiritual Wholeness to them. In Jesus Name,
Amen***

Connie

March 12 Tuesday

**Genesis 1:26-31 (made in image of God,
relational)**

In this passage, God created me in His own image. He blessed me. He made me a vegan. He gave me dominion over all of His creation. He created me to have a relationship with Him and all that He created. I must remind myself often that this great power, dominion, was not given to me to meet my own needs. It was given as a stewardship. When I dwell on this, I ask God's forgiveness for me and all mankind for the injustices we've done to His creation. "With great power comes great responsibility."

Prayer:

Holy and gracious God, thank you for your good creation. May Your Holy Spirit help me to be a better steward and to continue rejoicing and growing in our relationship. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Marie

March 13 Wednesday

John 1:24-34 (Jesus takes away sins of world)

This passage describes Jesus about to be baptized by John the Baptist. Unlike the other three gospels, this one does not actually describe the baptism. Instead, the writer emphasizes that John was baptizing with water to wash away sin, but Jesus has come to wash away sin with the Holy Spirit. He is the Lamb of God and will take away the sin of the world. A dramatic moment on the bank of the River Jordan! John's mission was to point people in the direction of Jesus. He draws back the curtain and Jesus takes center stage.

From our earliest years we are taught to forgive sins. Mothers teach us to, *"Say you're sorry."* I never understood why, it never made me feel any better.

As I grew older I thought of forgiveness as a two-way street. Over the years, I have had to forgive others for an assortment of issues. If we hang on to the sins of others, it will only fester and can leave us paralyzed to continue a relationship. This often happens to those we love the most. Families hold grudges that last for decades. They don't even remember what caused the rift.

The other side of forgiveness has to do with when I need to ask forgiveness of others. What, ME do something WRONG??? All the time. My mouth moves before my brain, I make judgements based on my own lens; the list goes on and on. I feel disappointed in myself and become paralyzed about how to move forward. I need to continually practice self-awareness. In order for me to feel whole, I need to own my faults and not be afraid to ask forgiveness.

Google says: Forgiveness is for our own growth and happiness. When we hold on to hurt, pain, resentment, and anger it harms us far more than it harms the offender. Forgiveness frees us to live in the present. ... Forgiveness allows us to move on without anger or contempt or seeking revenge. (There's the wholeness part).

The Bible is crystal clear on forgiveness: Just do it!

Jesus told Peter 70 x 7

Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a choice. Choosing forgiveness will mean that you have to go to God on your knees for the power to forgive. It's choosing not to let thoughts of hatred rule in your heart. It's choosing to go to God to find help and comfort instead of dwelling on the past, even when our feelings would rather do anything but. The power we need for this we get from the Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

*Lord God: Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. I know I've made mistakes in the past, and I'm going to make mistakes and commit sins in the future. As I rejoice in your forgiveness, I long for your guidance. In Jesus name,
Amen*

Joy

March 14 Thursday

Proverbs 17:9 (forgiveness as love)

Forgiveness is a concept we understand. It is harder often times to turn that concept into a reality. When we feel that we have been wronged; we need to resist the “eye for an eye” response urge.

On Sundays we confess our sins and pray to God for forgiveness. Let us truly be as one made in God’s image and forgive others. It will not be long before we will need the favor returned in kind.

As it is stated in Ecclesiastes Chapter 4 verse 9 - Two are better than one for if they fall one will lift up the other; but woe is one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

Prayer:

So, pray hard for great compassion to lead to God’s clarity. Forgiveness and love will follow.

Amen

Deb and Joe

March 15 Friday

Psalm 130 (plea for forgiveness)

The Psalms are a book of songs. The psalmist in 130 is repenting. He is telling God that he is sorry for breaking God's rules. He has reached rock bottom.

He knows God is constantly forgiving us; which is a reason why we worship Him.

We love Him because he loves us enough to forgive us.

The last part of the song the psalmist predicts that God is sending the Great Redeemer(Jesus) who will forgive the sins of everyone who loves God.

So when you feel at your lowest go to Psalm 130, read as a prayer, and it will give you comfort. Knowing all what God has done.

Prayer: Psalm 130 (The Message)

Help, God—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

Master, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears!

Listen to my cries for mercy.

*If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings,
who would stand a chance?*

*As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,
and that's why you're worshiped.*

*I pray to God—my life a prayer—
and wait for what he'll say and do.*

*My life's on the line before God, my Lord,
waiting and watching till morning,
waiting and watching till morning.*

*O Israel, wait and watch for God—
with God's arrival comes love,
with God's arrival comes generous redemption.*

*No doubt about it—he'll redeem Israel,
buy back Israel from captivity to sin.*

Amen

Sue

March 16 Saturday

Isaiah 53:4-6 (forgiveness/healing through God's servant/Christ)

If you didn't know that Isaiah was a prophet who lived 800 years before Jesus, this passage sounds straight out of the New Testament. There are messages of transgression and redemption – forgiveness – throughout the Bible. How lucky for all of us – our world sure is full of sheep going astray! But through Jesus' undeserved suffering for OUR sins, and through his resurrection, we know that God's promise of peace and eternal life is real, if we choose it. We know that God forgives us anew constantly, if we ask it.

Prayer:

Loving Father,

Thank you for your endless capacity to forgive my endless straying. Each new day, sometimes each new hour or even each new minute, I find myself in need of your forgiveness. Thank you for the countless blessings you shower on me despite my countless transgressions! Thank you, Jesus, for enduring MY punishment. Please help me see you right here beside me through every step I take today, so that I can be more of you, and less of me, to all I encounter on our walk together.

Amen.

Mindy

Understanding Forgiveness



March 18 Monday

Joel 2:12-13 (need for repentance)

God loves us and is always urging us to come back to him. Verses twelve and thirteen are about repentance and the desire to return to God. In verse twelve the Lord states “Yet even now”. To me this says that no matter what we have done (sins) or where we are in our spiritual journey, we can always come home. The verses also ask us to sincerely recognize (with all your heart) our sins, give them to god, humbly ask forgiveness and make an effort to align your actions with his word instead of paying lip service. I am lifted up and thankful to know that we have such a forgiving and slow to anger God that abounds in loving kindness.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your faithfulness. With gratitude, I thank you for your ultimate gift of love for me, in the form of your son and the sacrifice of his life on my behalf. Throughout this day, may I be keenly aware of your presence in everything I do, may my actions be aligned with your word.

Amen.

Phil

March 19 Tuesday

Genesis 50:15-21 (Joseph forgives brothers)

Understanding forgiveness is not an easy thing to do.

In this story, Joseph is certainly a model of forgiveness - he has truly been wronged by his brothers, in a really big way; AND, even in their desire to ask forgiveness of him, they wrong him again by lying to him. In my mind, as I read this story, I think - wow Joseph has every right to withhold forgiveness, to hold these actions against his brothers, maybe to let them starve in the famine - they would deserve that, wouldn't they?

But, the lesson that Joseph gives us is that it's not about them. It's about Joseph, and it's about God. Joseph reminds us (and his brothers) about all the good that God worked through Joseph in Egypt.

One of my favorite definitions of forgiveness is often quoted by Oprah (given her by a guest on her show): "forgiveness is giving up the hope that the past could be any different." Joseph accepts that this ordeal he has been through as a result of his brothers' actions, has been a part of his life experience, and even better, sees all the good that happened as a result. He doesn't need to withhold forgiveness, or take revenge - he accepts that it happened, and moves forward with his life.

In our lives, it's not always so easy as Joseph makes it look. But we can use Joseph as a model and a reminder of how we can strive to do what he did - forgive.

Prayer:

God, please help me to remember all of the forgiveness I have been given, and help me to give it freely to others.

Amen.

March 20 Wednesday
John 8:1-11 (all need forgiveness)

Understanding forgiveness! Do we understand it? We think we do, and then we don't. What I mean is ----- we may still harbor a feeling of blame or resentment. To truly understand forgiveness we need to look to our Savior's examples. In the passage of John 8:1-11, He is teaching in the temple when the scribes and Pharisees bring a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They want to see if He will impose a stoning on her as Moses had commanded. Jesus writes something in the sand. Then says: If any of you are without sin, throw the first stone. They all disappear, and He is left with the woman who is told to go and sin no more. Good example of forgiveness? Better example of forgiveness: He died to forgive us of our sins!

Prayer:

Father keep reminding us to be forgiving because we need forgiving everyday.

Amen

Martha

March 21 Thursday

Romans 12:17-21 (how to forgive)

In these passages God is asking us not to repay evil or take revenge. God is saying, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay.

Sometimes it is difficult to forgive someone that has caused us a deep hurt. We want to have them to hurt also. It becomes heavy on our heart and we may even become bitter.

We need to remember to be Christlike and be forgiving no matter how difficult the situation.

God always is forgiving to us and we need to forgive those that have been wrongful to us.

As we pray always in the Lord's Prayer; Forgive those who trespass against us.

Not always easy, but we must try.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Help us to be able to be forgiving always as you are always to us, no matter how difficult

it may seem. That our hearts may be light.

AMEN

Sally

March 22 Friday

Psalm 86:1-7, 15 (David's trust in a forgiving God)

Forgiveness is a loving response to negative or hurtful action. When we are in trouble know that we can turn to the Lord. If that trouble is a problem we can ask for help. If that trouble is something we have done wrong we ask for forgiveness. With the Lords ever present love, He will always forgive us. We put our trust in His compassion and mercy. He always answers our prayer with love.

Prayer:

Dear God, I pray to you as your servant, when I am grateful, and when I need help. I know you listen to me because you always give me the right answer and help. No matter what I do, You always give me love, mercy, and forgiveness for my sins. Thank you for the forgiveness you have given to your grateful servant.

Amen

John

March 23 Saturday

Luke 6:37-38 (benefit of forgiveness)

Forgiveness is love. As you give love (forgiveness), God will continue to give you His love(forgiveness) in all things. God is generous, so much more than we are.

Forgive those who hurt you.

Prayer:

***Loving God,
forgive me when I fail to forgive. Be in
my heart so I feel your love
(forgiveness), so I may do likewise.
In Jesus name.***

Amen

Joe

Telling the Story and



Naming the Hurt

March 25 Monday

Matthew 5:21-26 (make reconciliation with others)

In this passage Jesus brings a fuller, deeper meaning to the sixth commandment—going beyond the literal interpretation of the law which states, “Do not murder (kill)”. Like the Pharisees, we could smugly say, “that doesn’t apply to me”. I think Jesus is calling the crowd, his followers & us to take a deeper look @ two issues that apply across the board to everyone. The first is the feelings of anger—a common human emotion—that no one is exempt from. From a physiological standpoint, anger is a universal built-in response to distress—physical or emotional. As a human emotion it is not morally wrong. It is a response to a stressor. I’ve heard it said that anger is a quantitative issue. So if we unwittingly we carry many layers of stress/distress for an extended period of time without an opportunity for some form of release we can go from cranky to irritable to rage very quickly—and wonder how we got there. Or maybe we have a long fuse but unconsciously hang onto fear & negative emotions that leads to resentment. But emotion does not stand alone. Our thinking precedes our feelings (and our actions as well) & this is, I think, is what Jesus is calling us to examine. Without awareness, attitudes have the potential for being a breeding ground for anger & its deleterious effects. What kind of thoughts are we carrying around in our head? Do we hold onto resentment? Can we admit if our thoughts are narrow-minded, biased or distorted? Can we admit when we are wrong? The second issue that Jesus talks about is reconciliation. The dictionary defines reconciliation as reuniting, restoring friendly relations, bringing back together. Anger (in all its degrees) separates. In ancient times, if you committed murder, your adversary could deliver you to the judge for imprisonment where you may die. In the same way, on a deeper level, if we are not growing love in our attitudes we will surely die spiritually. Unresolved anger could be one roadblock to our spiritual growth.

Prayer:

Jesus, our Teacher, our Way-shower, you intimately know what it is to be human. You understand us. In addition you are the ultimate reconciler. Let your spirit fill us with your light. Help us to be honest with you about our feelings & leads us in healthy, loving thoughts. Holy Spirit, let us see clearly so that we may authentically love others. Teach us to not respond reactively when others are angry with us but to extend understanding & compassion working to rebuild broken bonds of relationship.

Amen

Kathy

March 26 Tuesday

Jeremiah 3:12-14 (God's forgiveness of faithless Israel)

Go and proclaim these words toward the North and say.

Return Faithless Israel,

Says the Lord.

I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful,

Says the Lord.

I will not be angry forever.

Only acknowledge your guilt, that you have rebelled against the Lord your God, and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree, and have not obeyed my voice,

Says the Lord.

Return O' faithless Children,

Says the Lord.

For I am your master;

And I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

My Thoughts:

(The message here I believe is that God is a Merciful God. He gets angry with us when we do our own thing, (Rebel), not obeying his word. He wants us to confess our disobedience listen to his voice and will forgive our transgressions)

The Prayer:

Father, forgive my disobedience, help me Father to obey your commands and listen to your voice, guide me in your ways.

Amen!

Jim

March 27 Wednesday

Ezekiel 33:10-11 (God's call for repentance)

Watchman - considered as an official military position; and biblically speaking, much like a shepherd. As a Christian [watchman, shepherd], we are entrusted with and accountable for what we know of God's message. So what does this accountability look like? To me, this means to be your best self with the help of God! Being aware of one's "conversation, conduct, and character", and offenses, sin or anything else that gets in the way of one's relationship with the Lord. A demonstration of forgiveness, encouragement, kindness, and forbearance towards our "neighbors" is a true testimony of the love we have for Christ Jesus.

Not long ago, I was deeply hurt by someone close to me. I wanted to react "give a piece of my mind", if I am going to be perfectly honest! Instead, I took my "hurt" to the Lord and asked for His perspective. It didn't take Him more than a few minutes to download into my spirit "He may have divided the family... but you are creating division in your heart". In that moment, I was being made accountable for my choices in "conversations, conduct, and character" regarding this relationship. Subsequently, forgiveness was the only option for me. Yes, it's not easy and the memory hurts, sometimes. However, God knows how to take the sting out of the "hurt"! God has made you and I the "watchman" – honor, love, and protect what ultimately belongs to Him!

Prayer: Thank you for helping us to rearrange our priorities in life. Most of all, thank you for strengthening our faith to forgive others! In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen

Jan

March 28 Thursday

Luke 17:1-4 (honesty of being hurt)

All of us have had family members who hurt us in one way or another. We cannot run away from them or ignore them. They are family. That is why it is best to forgive them and go on with our lives. Life is so short.

Prayer:

***Dearest Jehovah,
Please give me the strength not to be
angry and hurt from the faults of others.***

Amen

Susan

March 29 Friday

Psalm 103:6-13 (God's radical forgiveness)

God is love. This passage is about God's love for us. What God does for us tells us what He's really like. He is compassionate and gracious. He loves us unconditionally. It is nothing we can earn. It is given to all who love and fear him. He made known his ways to Moses; hid deeds to the people of Israel. Time and time again, the people of Israel disobeyed God's laws when things were going good. When their disobedience caused such turmoil and hardships in their lives, they repented, begged God's forgiveness with the promise of obedience. Their constant disobedience to God caused Him great pain. Each time they repented, as a compassionate, unconditionally loving Father, He forgave them. I know that I hurt God when I, like the Israelites, stray from God's laws given by Moses.

Prayer:

Dear God, please help me be obedient to your laws.

When I stray, please be compassionate and gracious to me. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen

Rose

March 30 Saturday

Jeremiah 8:18-22 (acknowledgment of pain of betrayal)

Jeremiah's grief was beyond healing. He had pain in his heart for the crying, starving children, mothers, and fathers. God didn't leave you. God is always with all.

Prayer:

***Our Lord in heaven,
Please pray for underprivileged and all
the world. Pray for food, clothes, and
living quarters. Collect in the churches
and pray for help. The Lord is always
with us.***

Amen

Joyce

Granting Forgiveness and Renewing/ Releasing the Relationship



April 1 Monday

Ephesians 4:31-32 (forgive as you've been forgiven)

We have all been hurt by someone else, but we should remember that most likely we have hurt someone ourselves. We should hope that we can forgive and be forgiven just as God has forgiven us, and that our relationships can be renewed to a better level.

Prayer:

Dear Lord help us to forgive one another as you have forgiven us, so that we may live a more Godly life.

Amen

Ray

April 2 Tuesday

Malachi 3:6-7 (God's unending love and desire for repentance)

God's mind is absolutely undivided. This means that His sovereignty can never be separated from His love; His grace cannot be separated from His omniscience; His judgment cannot be separated from either His mercy or His wrath. God is absolutely constant because His faithful providence cannot be separated from any other of His attributes. God is whole and complete. Under every circumstance, He is never confused or uncertain about what to do. He is always headed in the same direction, which is to complete His purpose.

It is absolutely impossible for Him to do anything that is not wise and at the same time loving. It is He who tells us how to live and how to be like Him. What God is has awesome ramifications for us because we are so different, and He wants us to be like Him, to be one with Him, to be whole, to be complete, to be undivided in mind like Him.

Becoming this way requires a measure of cooperation from us. Compared to God, our minds are all over the place, and thus we are so easily distracted from our focus. We need to come back to Him and be grateful and aware of how blessed we are by his infinite mercy. Know that the Lord never changes in his love for us!

Prayer:

Oh, Lord, please give us strength to try and live our lives more in your ways.

Thank you for always being a loving and gracious God.

Amen

Joyce

April 3 Wednesday

Genesis 33:1-11 (Esau forgives Jacob)

Sometimes you go into a situation prepared for resistance but the other person has already forgiven you. Jacob was prepared to defend his loved ones against Esau and his men. It wasn't a necessary step as Esau was coming to Jacob prepared to forgive him. Esau didn't believe he deserved the gifts presented to him by Jacob but because he insisted Esau accepted. Esau then let the way for their travel.

Prayer:

Dear God, Let us forgive those who have done us wrong. Help guide us to not always assume the worse in people. Allow us to forgive and present forgiveness to those whom we lost our trust in. Help us work to renew our relationship with our peers, family & friends daily for the health of all relationships in our lives.

AMEN

Becki and James

April 4 Thursday

Colossians 3:12-17 (forgive one another)

This bible verse reinforces that we are all children of God, and as such, we should be tolerant of one another. No matter our differences, we should demonstrate compassion, humility, and forgiveness in our relationships with each other. Live by example, the example Jesus has shown us, and unite with one another in love.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your unconditional love and forgiveness. Help us to lead our lives by your example and forgive each other for our faults so that we may live together in peace and unity.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen

Tammy

April 5 Friday

Psalm 32:1-7 (blessedness in forgiveness)

Transgressions, or sins, eat away at you from the inside. When you have wronged someone you will not feel better until you are forgiven. Confessing your sins and having God forgive you refreshes your soul. God does not put conditions on forgiveness. He forgives all sins.

Prayer:

God grant me forgiveness for my sins as I strive to be a better christian and grow in my life with you.

Amen

Tom and Michele

April 6 Saturday

Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus makes restitution for sins)

We are all sinners. Some people have so much and they will not share with those who do not. They do not have Jesus in their life. They have to pray to get the Lord Jesus into their life so they can give food, money, and other things. They have plenty so they should give to people who are in need.

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Please come into the lives of people who have an excess of everything, and to help them give restitution. Grant them forgiveness to renew their faith in You.

Diane

All Can Be Forgiven



April 8 Monday

1 John 1:8-9 (confession of sins)

All can be forgiven. As weak sinners, by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we can ask for forgiveness of our sins. Deep within our souls, we can live the life of His truth, praying for forgiveness of our sins, and we are forgiven.

My Prayer:

Lord God, you are most forgiving of my sins. Thank you for your compassion, forgiveness, and love. Amen

Donna

April 9 Tuesday

Hosea 2:16-20 (God's forgiveness of unfaithfulness)

The message I heard from Hosea 2:16-20 was that we are ALWAYS forgiven! We, as human beings will continually make mistakes. Most of us try to be the best version of ourselves, but unfortunately we seem to always fall short. This said, we must realize we are not perfect! God knows we are not perfect, He continues to forgive us time and time again, no matter the circumstance. God will ALWAYS be there for us through His Word (The Bible), and many times through someone else! We need to open our eyes and our hearts and receive this priceless gift! We must continue to try to be the best version of ourselves and remember that God is ALWAYS with us, and will forgive us... no matter what!

Prayer:

Dear Lord!

Please help us to remember that God loves us unconditionally, even when we fall short of being the best version of ourselves. Help us to be more like you, full of love and forgiveness toward ourselves and others. Help us to follow your path using your Word!

In Jesus Christ,

Amen!

Margie

April 10 Wednesday

John 18:15-27, John 21:15-17 (Jesus forgives Peter's denials)

In these verses we see Peter's Denial of Jesus three times followed by Jesus' forgiveness of Peter after Jesus' resurrection. Jesus pointedly asked Peter, "Simon (Peter) Do you love me?" To which Peter responds, "Yes Lord, You know that I love you." And the question persists for three times which is beginning to agitate Peter to the point that he feels hurt by Jesus. It is entirely possible that Jesus after the resurrection is subtly reminding Peter of his denial of 3 times. But what is even more important is Jesus act of forgiveness. Peter denied Jesus 3 times and Jesus came back to him after the resurrection and asked for his confirmation of love to be forgiven and Jesus says, "Feed my sheep." -- WOW! Here is Peter who played a role in Jesus death and he has been elevated to a role as a prime mover and leader for the Church moving forward. If Jesus can forgive Peter, think of what we (you & I) have done through our lives. We have not committed treason against the church or God and hopefully we have not committed murder but even if we have, ALL IS FORGIVEN. That is such a freeing and uplifting thought to me – to know that whatever I have done, and whomever I have wronged in my life can be forgiven. My soul lifts in praise saying, "Thank you Jesus!"

Prayer:

*Dear Heavenly Father,
While I know that I am sinful and have committed offenses against you and my fellow brothers & sisters in Christ, I ask your forgiveness. I affirm my love for you Jesus, as Peter did and I repeat, "Lord, you know that that I love you". My life would be nothing without you in it and I truly thank you for your forgiveness and the commitment that you have made in me. Let me be an instrument of your love and forgiveness to others, in Jesus name. Amen.*

Darrell

April 11 Thursday

Mark 2:1-12 (forgiveness before repentance)

Mark 2:1-12 Illustrates Jesus love for all no matter who you are and what you have done. Jesus will always love you and forgive your sins. All can be forgiven and we as Christians need to be more forgiving of others and have courage similar to the four men that brought the paralyzed man to Jesus for forgiveness and his miracle of healing. By welcoming all people, not judging and forgiving others we will all become closer to God in our faith journey.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for forgiving our sins and for guiding our faith bringing us closer to you. Through your amazing kindness please continue to nurture our faith and help us share the good news bringing friends and community closer to you. Thank you for hearing our prayers and please help us to forgive others as all can be forgiven. Amen

Have a blessed day!

Deb

April 12 Friday

Psalm 51:1-12 (David's repentance)

Forgiveness is often harder than it sounds. It can be difficult to forgive others when we feel betrayed and hurt, but with God's help we can do it. It is often even harder to forgive ourselves. When I first read the theme - All Can Be Forgiven -it reminded me of when suicide has occurred in our community. I always told Madison and my Girl Scouts that suicide is never the answer. No matter what happens, it'll never be so bad that God wouldn't forgive you and we wouldn't love you. So many seem lost, I pray that they find God and the support they need.

Prayer:

Dear God, please help me to forgive others and myself. Please remind me that because of your forgiveness nothing needs to separate me from You. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast Spirit within me.

Amen

Brenda

April 13 Saturday

Matthew 5:43-48 (forgive your enemy)

What a time to pray for forgiveness. Most of us pray for forgiveness for ourselves. We are sinners, we know it, God knows it and that's why we pray. In Matthew, Jesus talks of praying, not ourselves, but for our enemies. Our enemies? You can't be serious Jesus? Yes he is. It is a time when literally, "the enemy is at the gates". The enemy comes in from the sky, the enemy comes in from the sea and the enemy lies within our own borders. How can we stop this? Build a wall? Inspect every plane and ship that enters our country. Sure we try, but it's not a fail-safe plan. What we need to do is pray for their hearts to change. Only God can stop the madness that exists in our world. Through prayer, hopefully he will.

Prayer:

God we pray that those that seek to destroy us realize that we are not the enemy. That the enemy exists in their hearts and that we ask that you repair those hearts so that we can all love one another the way your son taught us.

Amen

Ken

Holy Week



April 15 Monday

Luke 15:11-32 (radical nature of forgiveness)

This is the well- known parable of the prodigal son, whereby a son who has squandered much of what has been given to him, leaves home and returns penniless to be welcomed with open arms by a loving father, not so much by a jealous brother.

This story illustrates the unconditional love of a parent for a child regardless of behavior not approved.....

Sometimes easier said than done!

Similarly it shows God's ability and willingness to forgive our sinful nature each and every day as we are all His children. He too, welcomes us with arms wide!

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

It is sometimes easy for us to forgive loved ones for their faults, but not others with whom we have had problems or disagreements. Help us to show your love and ability to forgive others as you love and forgive us.

Amen

Kurt

April 16 Tuesday

Psalm 85 (God's forgiveness)

This is a Psalm of forgiveness. It is a plea for the restoration of peace. It is a prayer that offers thankfulness for what God has done. We are blessed, rescued and restored.

It is a prayer for grace and mercy. It asks for salvation. The Psalm is looking for God to answer our prayers, so it is also a message of hope. The Lord will provide that which is good.

Prayer:

***Dear Lord, we thank you for the forgiveness of our sins.
Thank you for the understanding that we are not perfect.
Your mercy is great. Your rescue of us gives us hope.
Lord we ask that you empower us to follow your
righteousness. Give us the strength to forgive our
neighbors as you have done for us. Let us follow your lead,
and grant mercy on the imperfect world in which we live.
Grant us peace.***

Amen

Mike

April 17 Wednesday

Micah 7:18-20 (God's faithfulness)

This is a Bible verse of forgiveness. God does not hold a grudge. He knows we have slipped, fallen, backslidden and feel great guilt. But we are enabled to confess our sins and seek forgiveness of them. God releases His anger and replaces it with love and Compassion. Ours is a loving God. He rejoices in the salvation of the sinner.

It is a prayer for grace and mercy. It asks for salvation. The verses are looking for God to answer our prayers, so it is also a message of hope. The Lord will provide that which is good.

Prayer:

"And in that day you shall say, O Lord, I will praise you; though you were angry with me, your anger is turned away, and you comforted me." Isaiah 12:1

You are the only God. You forgive our sins and offer your love. You shelve your anger and distribute your mercy.

Lord we thank you. We pray for the courage to be like you. We want to forgive our neighbor. We do not want to harbor anger. We pray for the strength to be kind and merciful.

Amen

Trish

April 18 (Maundy Thursday)

Matthew 26:26-29 (forgiveness through Christ)

Plaques, monuments, statues are abundant throughout our country. These visuals remind us of real people and what they did to bring victory to our country. Sacrifices were made to preserve our freedom. The last supper pictures the sacrifice Jesus made for us. It would seem there is nothing in the bread or wine that forgives sins. But they are not symbolic. Lutherans teach that the elements remain bread and wine, and through God's miracle, as we consume them, Christ is also present. Christ is present for our forgiveness!

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for your forgiveness, love and sacrifice.

Lead me daily to act accordingly to your will....

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen

Peg

April 19 (Good Friday)

Romans 3:21-26 (all have sinned, forgiveness is a gift)

To me, this bible passage focuses on the thought of forgiveness. It doesn't matter the color of your skin. It doesn't matter your sexual preference. It doesn't matter where you live. It doesn't matter how much money you have. It doesn't matter what your religion is. We are all God's children. And being a child of God, we have all sinned. Part of Holy Week is acknowledging the redemption of our sins because God gave his only son Jesus Christ as a sacrifice of atonement. So no matter your skin color, your sexual preference, where you live or how much money you have, or your religion, if you believe in God your sins are forgiven.

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, another year has passed and once again we are partaking in this week of somber reflection. Thank you for giving your only Son for the forgiveness of our sins. I'm sorry that we continue to sin, but we are not perfect. Thank you for being there for us in every step of the way to our everlasting life with you. In Jesus' name we pray...Amen.

Diane and Rich

April 20 Saturday

Ephesians 2:1-9 (sin brings death, Christ gives life)

Since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, we have all sinned. Sin is death, the loss of God! Some today are being directed by Satan. We have a choice whom we will follow. Flesh brings death and hell. The Spirit brings life. Grace is God's gift of love to us. We don't deserve grace and cannot earn it by good works. Christ made us alive and by God's grace we are saved! How good it feels to know we are forgiven!

Prayer:

Glorious Father, Thank you for the gift of Jesus who died to save us! You have forgiven us and saved us by your grace. Let the Spirit live in our hearts. Guide us to live in your ways , serving and forgiving others. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Rosalynn



Easter

April 21, 2019

